

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7069

BILL NUMBER: SB 290

DATE PREPARED: Feb 25, 2002

BILL AMENDED: Feb 25, 2002

SUBJECT: Education.

FISCAL ANALYST: Chuck Mayfield

PHONE NUMBER: 232-4825

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill establishes a method for honorably discharged veterans who did not receive high school diplomas because they joined the military before graduating to receive diplomas. It allows the Department of Education to make alternative education program grants to school corporations more than once a year if the aggregate amount of the grants does not exceed \$750 per full-time equivalent student. The bill requires the Director of the Division of Special Education to coordinate an interagency task force to: (1) review services and funding sources available for children and young adults with disabilities and their families; and (2) submit a report to the legislature and the agencies involved.

Effective Date: (Amended) Upon passage; July 1, 2002.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) *Veteran's High School Diploma Program (VHSDP)*: the Department of Education (IDOE) and the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) would incur an indeterminable increase in administrative expenses in accordance with the provisions of this bill.

DVA: The DVA would be required to develop and process an indeterminable number of applications of eligible World War I, World War II, Korean, and Vietnam veterans seeking high school diplomas. Development of informative materials and application forms would increase expenditures for the DVA. The DVA would also be required to verify the information provided by a veteran or the veteran's surviving family members. Once verification is completed, the DVA would be required to forward the verified application to the IDOE.

Background: There are currently 91 county service officers (CSOs) that serve the needs of veterans requesting information (Marion County has its own service officers). CSOs are trained and must pass annual certification in order to maintain their position. Although CSOs report to the county council and county commissioners, the DVA serves as the training agency and also supervision authority of CSOs. CSOs may process and fill out claims paperwork, free of charge, including searches for discharge form DD-214 for a

veteran. However, a CSO is prevented by law to file completed paperwork. This role is reserved for veteran's service organizations. CSOs are funded from county or city funds. It is possible the DVA could utilize CSOs to carry out the verification process of applications for a VHSDP diploma.

As of November 1, 2001, the DVA had 13 full-time staff members and three vacancies. Two of the vacancies were in the DVA-operated Veteran's Memorial Cemetery. The remaining vacancy was a COMOT4 position within the administrative section of the DVA.

IDOE: The IDOE would be required to design and, if requested by the veteran, distribute the VHSDP diplomas. The impact of this proposal most likely would not be absorbable within the IDOE's existing budget. Additionally, the DVA may consult with the IDOE to verify information on an application for a VHSDP diploma. Although the additional expenditure required would be temporary, the IDOE reports additional staff would be required to carry out verifications of applications under the bill. The Department could employ temporary staff to verify applicant information. If diplomas awarded were required to have the State Seal attached, the IDOE would incur additional printing and postage cost.

Additionally, the IDOE would be required to either direct the school corporation that the diploma recipient attended (if still in existence) to present the VHSDP diploma or IDOE would present the diploma. The expense of presentation of a VHSDP diploma by the IDOE should be minimal if conducted during scheduled business meetings of the Board.

Since relatives of deceased veterans would be eligible to apply for VHSDP diplomas to be awarded posthumously, it is possible more diplomas could be applied for than the estimated number of living Indiana World War I, World War II, Korean, and Vietnam veterans. However, the specific number of Indiana World War I, World War II, Korean, and Vietnam veterans who interrupted their high school studies to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States is currently indeterminable. Additionally, the number of Indiana veterans of the above listed conflicts that were honorably discharged is currently unknown.

Background: The Indiana War Memorials Commission reports that approximately 130,400 Hoosiers served in World War I. Approximately, 400,000 Hoosiers served in World War II. The actual number of Hoosiers that served in Korea and Vietnam is currently indeterminable. However, the following number of killed in action (KIA) Hoosiers are as follows: World War I - 3,350; World War II - 13,000; Korea - 880 to 920 (approximately); Vietnam - 1,490 to 1,570 (approximately.)

It is estimated that approximately 330,067 World War I, World War II, Korean, and Vietnam veterans live in Indiana today. Roughly 50% of this total served in the Vietnam Conflict.

Alternative Education: The bill allows the Department of Education to make more than one distribution of the Alternative Education Grant. The impact would depend if additional distributions are made to schools. The additional distributions would come from existing appropriation and could not exceed \$750 per student.

Special Education Task Force: The task force is made up of state employees except for the representative of a local educational agency, the representative of a community mental health center, and the parent advocate. Any costs accrued due the task forces would be funded from existing agency budgets.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education, Family and Social Services, Department of Health, Department of Corrections, Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Local Agencies Affected: Local Schools

Information Sources: William Jackson, Jon Brinkley, Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs, (317) 232-3919; Steve Meskin, Office of the Actuary, Office of Policy and Planning, U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs, (202) 273-5062; Terry Spradlin, Indiana Department of Education, (317) 232-6671; Dave Buchanan, Indiana War Memorials Commission, (317) 232-7616.